# KS3 End of Year Examinations

# Revision Strategies

# Revision Success

The key to successful revision is to make sure you have the right conditions. Some people work well with music, others in complete silence, but very few people are able to revise effectively in front of the telly!

Find yourself a quiet space, and make sure you have everything you need. Don't attempt to cram all of your revision into one evening, have a timetable spread over the weeks before the exam.

**Key Ideas to make your revision a success:**

- **Don't do last minute panics, make sure you have started revision weeks in advance.**

- **Take regular breaks and move around- even making a cup of tea will refresh you.**

- **Have a timetable and stick to it!**

- **Give yourself incentives, e.g. "if I do two hours revision today, I'll go to the cinema tonight."**

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# Revision Success

Different techniques work for different people. Below are a few ideas that may help your revision. Some of the basic techniques are detailed in the following pages.

- ***Index cards, mind maps and notes***
  – Use to record key points
  – Incorporate pictures, colour, highlighting
- ***Learning posters, mind-maps and diagrams***
  – Use pattern, colour and drawings
  – Cover key points and topics
  – Pin them up where you'll see them often
- ***Key words, phrases, themes or ideas***
  – Use two or three sentences to define, stick them up somewhere prominent
- ***Summary tables or grids***
  – Compare or evaluate competing theories or key people
- ***Teach someone***
  – Teach a topic to a fellow student or a friend
  – Thinking it through is effective revision
  – Fill in the gaps in your knowledge as you identify them
- ***Reinforce your memory***
  – As you end a revision session, review key points
  – Review again regularly

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# Post- it Notes

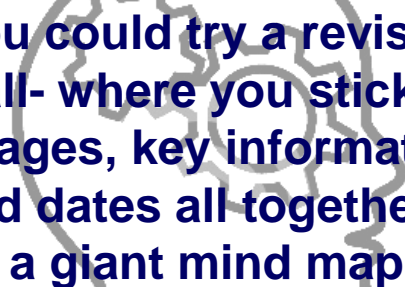Using a post- it with a small amount of important information on may really help you.

You can stick post-its virtually anywhere, like on the bathroom mirror- so you could be revising the Berlin Wall while brushing your teeth!

**Key Ideas:**

•**Keep the information on the post-its simple- key information, like a name and a date.**

•**Group information together, for example, have all the information about the Cold War in your bedroom and all the information about segregation in the front room.**

•**Ask your parents before you stick them up all over the house!**

*Ideal for:*

**Remembering key pieces of information, dates or names**

**You could try a revision wall- where you stick up images, key information and dates all together in a giant mind map.**

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# Prompt Cards

Using Prompt Cards will allow you to turn all of your written work into handy pocket sized notes. The key to this is to keep the relevant information on one card.
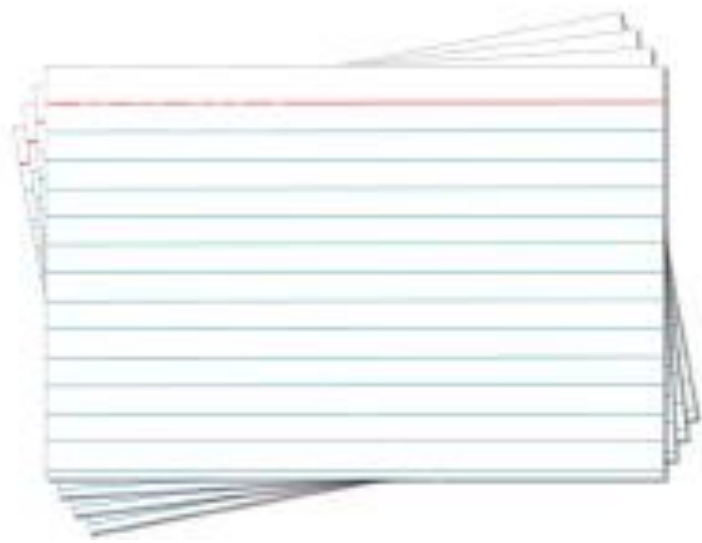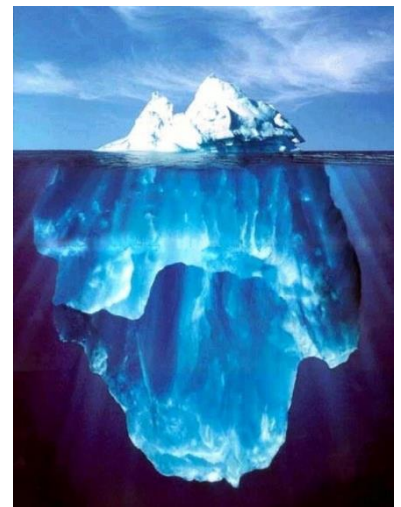
**Key Ideas:**

- **Make notes, not whole sentences**

- **Use colour and highlighters for important bits**

- **Group all the similar information together**

*Ideal for:*

**Remembering details**

## The 'Iceberg' Approach

When you are writing your revision cards, remember that one piece of information can link to a whole lot more- like an iceberg. Only a tiny part is above the surface, while there is lots and lots below. Make sure that you are able to remember all of the other information as well as the key facts.
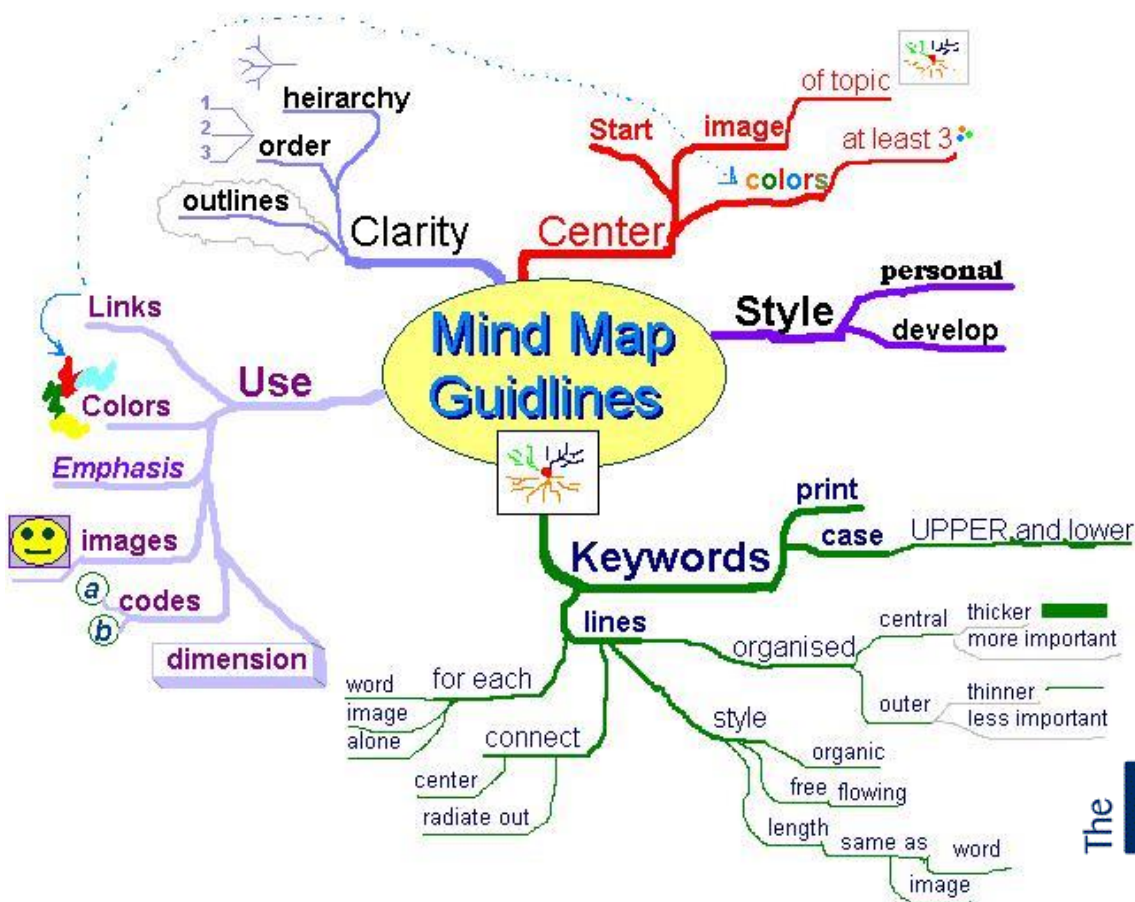
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# Mind Mapping

Using Mind Maps will help you to revise a whole topic. The mind map below not only is a great example but it gives you details of what makes an effective revision mind map.

**Key Ideas:**

•**Lots of colour and no straight lines**

•**Landscape not portrait, it's how your brain really works**

*Ideal for:*
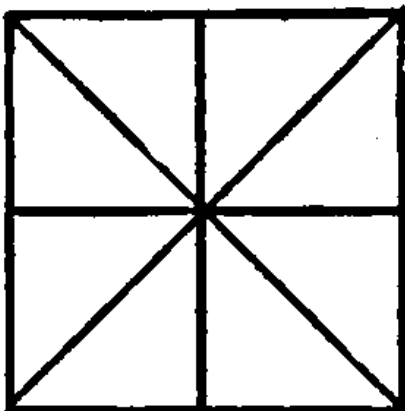
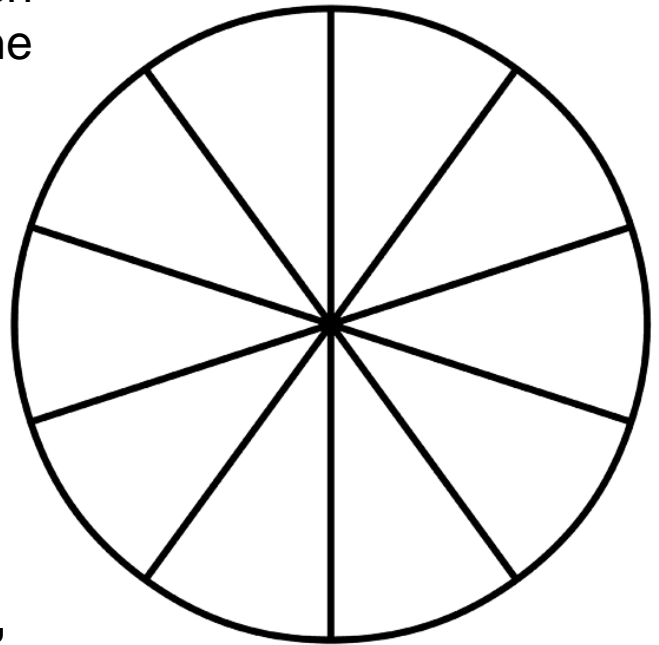**Remembering details and links between topics**

# Summary Shapes

When you have to remember sequences of events or processes, a summary shape will really help. Divide the information into key steps, then add a diagram to represent each of them in order around the shape.

**Key Ideas:**

- **Use colour and diagrams with key words.**

- **One key word should be enough to trigger your memory.**

- **Use colour to code events, e.g. red for personal and blue for professional.**

*Ideal for:*

**Remembering details and sequences of events**

An Example

RM O3
75
ROMEOO2
MANU17
O2
98
BROOKLYN99
99

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